

2024 Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth Excellence in Education Award

In order to celebrate our ICEARY membership and our collective commitment to living the mission of advocacy and service to at-risk youth, the Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth is proud to announce the 2024 **Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth Excellence in Education Award**.

The 2024 ICEARY Excellence in Education Award will recognize the exemplary service of an individual dedicated to at-risk youth. This individual could be a truancy officer, teacher, administrator, paraprofessional, superintendent, secretary, student advocate, custodian, social worker, food service employee, counselor or any member within your professional community. The ideal candidate for an ICEARY Excellence in Education Award provides service in an exemplary manner, provides strong leadership in efforts to support at-risk youth, and:

- Creates environments of relationship, connection, and belonging for at-risk youth and families
- Develops and initiates active learning to help at-risk students find new and creative ways to solve problems, achieve success, and become lifelong learners
- Works to further service and/or advocacy for at-risk students at the classroom, school, district, region, state, national or international level

Most importantly, this individual is an exemplary facilitator of success and ensures that students receive unconditional love and endless belief. This individual represents the very best of our profession and exemplifies our mission.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for consideration, nominees must:

- Be a member dedicated to exemplary service of at-risk youth
- Have at least two years of experience serving at-risk youth
- Be a current member of ICEARY

"The mission of ICEARY is to advocate for students, train educators, educate communities and unify programming to provide opportunities for at-risk youth and community partners."

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Excellence in Education Award Nomination Essays

Please describe the nominee in terms of the following criteria. Please limit the responses to no more than three pages and submit by February 16th, 2024.

Essay questions

1. Please describe how the nominee works to create a sense of emotional safety, connection, and belonging for at-risk youth and families.
2. Please describe how the nominee works to develop and initiate active learning to help at-risk students find new and creative ways to solve problems, achieve success, and become lifelong learners.
3. Please describe how the nominee furthers service and or advocacy for at-risk students at the classroom, school, district, region, state, national or international level.
4. If there are any other factors that would distinguish this nominee from others, please feel free to include those factors in the conclusion of the written nomination.

Submission

All nominations, essays, and pictures must be received by 5:00 pm, February 16th, 2024.

Please email nominations and 2 photos of each nominee to: **The Excellence in Education Award Team** at kziemmann@west40.org .

Please direct any questions to Karen at 708.990.8374 or email kziemmann@west40.org.

Many thanks for the effort to recognize and celebrate the best of our profession!

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Nomination Scoring Rubric for Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth Excellence in Education Award

	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	Total Score
Evidence that the nominee has created environments of relationship, connection, and belonging for at-risk youth and families.	Limited evidence with little impact for youth and families	Some evidence with some positive impact for youth and families	Much evidence demonstrating the positive change in a life or family	Great evidence with impact to many lives and/or systems	
Evidence that the nominee worked to develop and initiate active learning to help at-risk students find new and creative ways to solve problems, achieve success, and become lifelong learners.	Limited evidence with little impact for youth and families	Some evidence with some positive impact for youth and families	Much evidence demonstrating the positive change in a life or family	Great evidence with impact to many lives and/or systems	
Evidence that the nominee has demonstrated leadership in service and/or advocacy for at-risk students at the school, district, state, national or international level.	Limited evidence with little impact for youth and families	Some evidence with some positive impact for youth and families	Much evidence demonstrating the positive change in a life or family	Great evidence with impact to many lives and/or systems	
Evidence of "other" distinguishing factors that speak to exemplary service to at-risk youth and the mission of ICEARY.	Limited evidence with little impact for youth and families	Some evidence with some positive impact for youth and families	Much evidence demonstrating the positive change in a life or family	Great evidence with impact to many lives and/or systems	

This rubric will give the evaluators a framework for preparing an objective review of submissions. In the event that there is a tie in the rubric scoring, a second evaluation will be used that reflects the range of impact made by the nominee. The evaluation team will review submissions by region and then select one individual to be the recipient of the award per region.

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